

(b) Coking coal and grade A, B and C of non-coking coal are considered superior grades of coal. Production of these grades of coal in CIL has not increased during 8th and 9th Five Year Plan periods. The details are given below:—

(Figures in million tonnes)

Plan Period	Year	Total	Superior Grade Production
8th Plan	1992-1993		111.20
	1993-1994		108.19
	1994-1995		103.34
	1995-1996		105.84
	1996-1997		105.61
9th Plan	1997-1998		108.72
	1998-1999		97.38
	1999-2000		89.99

(c) Steps taken to increase the production of better quality coal include introduction of modern and intermediate technology, scientific mining of coal, picking of stones/shale pieces during loading of coal to Railway wagons, installation of Coal Handling Plants (CHP) for mechanised loading of proper quality coal, segregation of extraneous material, and installation of washeries for both coking and non-coking coal.

Coal mines in the country

2712. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in operation in the country at present, State-wise and public/private sector-wise;

(b) the number of coal mines closed down during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(c) if so, details thereof and whether any plan has been formulated by Government to make these mines viable?

[21 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The number of coal mines in operation in the country, at present, State-wise and public/ private sector-wise is as follows:—

Sl. No	States	Number of coal mines	operational mines	Total
		Public sector	Private sector	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67	—	67
2.	Assam	06	—	06
3.	Chhattisgarh	58	01	59
4.	Jharkhand	170	07	177
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	03	—	03
6.	Madhya Pradesh	78	—	78
7.	Meghalaya	01	—	01
8.	Maharashtra	51	—	51
9.	Orissa	22	—	22
10.	Uttar Pradesh	04	—	04
11.	West Bengal	102	01	103
	TOTAL	562	09	571

(b) and (c) The number of coal mines closed by Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited during the last three years and till date are as follows:—

Sl. No	Name of the State	Number of Mines closed during the last years			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Till Feb. 2001)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	2	2	3
2.	Chhattisgarh	2	—	1	—
3.	Jharkhand	1	5	1	—
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3	6	5	1
5.	Maharashtra	1	—	—	—
6.	West Bengal	1	4	1	—
	TOTAL	8	17	10	4

The major reasons for closing these coal mines, were as follows:—

- (i) exhaustion of resources;
- (ii) adverse geo-mining conditions;
- (iii) incidents of fire;
- (iv) unsafe mining conditions;
- (v) inundation;
- (vi) general techno-economic unviability.

It will not be possible to re-open the closed mines for the reasons stated above. Therefore, the question of viability/non-viability of these mines does not arise. Consequently, there is no plan formulated by the Government to make these closed mines viable.

Storage of weapons and supplies in Ordnance Depots

2713. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: WiU the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CAG has commented on the storehouse of all weapons and supplies, as weapons gather dust in the open in Ordnance Depots;
- (b) whether space in Central Ordnance Depots is not being properly used; and
- (c) the action taken to streamline the functioning Ordnance Depots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in his report on "Review of Inventory Management in Ordnance Services" published under reference of Union Government (Defence Services) No. 7A of 2000, had observed that stores weighing over 30,000 tonnes valued at over Rs. 150 crores were lying in the open in five Central Ordnance Depots assessed by the CAG.